leges and modilities for their introduction.

Strategy for improving the Quality of vocational education

1437. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve any multi-pronged strategy for improving the quality of vocational education in the Country during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how, Government propose to implement the strategy successfully throughout the Country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) For improving the quality of the Vocational Education Programme the following multi-pronged strategy has been envisaged during the Eighth Plan:

(i) Emphasis on consolidation and strengthening of the Vocational courses already started through creation of effective management structure, teacher training, curriculum development and textbook preparation and educational-employment linkages. Expanion of the programme at the plus 2 level in the country will be gradual.

(ii) Provision of pre-vocational courses at the lower secondary stage (Class IX and X) for facilitating vocational education to students who may drop out after Class X and for orientation of those joining the vocational stream at the plus 2 level.

(iii) Establishment of the Central Institute of Vocational Education as an apex level research and development institution for providing academic and technical support to the Vocational Education Programme.

Joint Council on vocational education

1438. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Council of Central and State Governments on Vocational education was set up in the year 1990;

(d fi so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Council has submitted any report/recommendations to Government on policy planning of vocational education in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to implement the suggestions/recommendations of the Joint Council?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A Joint Council of Vocational Education (JCVE) has been set up in 1990 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development at the national level for coordination, policy, planning and review of vocational education programmes. The membership of the Council includes State Education Ministers, Members of Parliament, officials representing various Ministries/Departments in the Central and State Governments, representatives of voluntary organisations Employee's Organisations, All India level professional bodies Public Ssecor undertakings, Teacher's Training Technical Institutes, Regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training, educationists and others.

State Councils of Vocational Education have been envisaged as the counterpart of JCVE at the State level